

ARTICLE 1120

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- 1120.01 Designation as provider: provision of services.
- 1120.02 Definitions.
- 1120.03 Policy.
- 1120.04 Procedure for billing emergency medical services.

CROSS REFERENCES

Emergency Medical Services Act 45 - 1985 (35 P.S. Sec. 6921)

1120.01 DESIGNATION AS PROVIDER: PROVISION OF SERVICES:

The City of Bethlehem recognizes the City's Emergency Medical Services Corps as the primary provider of pre-hospital emergency medicine within the corporate limits of Bethlehem. All persons in need of such services are entitled to receive them without prior determination of ability to pay.

1120.02 DEFINITIONS:

- A. Advanced Life Support, (ALS): The advanced level of care provided utilizing skills by an individual who is trained to provide pre-hospital emergency medical care which includes, but is not limited to, the administration of care such as intravenous fluids, medications, defibrillation, endotracheal intubation and cardiac monitoring.
- B. Ambulance Service (ALS), Non-specialized: Ambulance transports that do not have at least one of the specialized services, as listed below, performed.
- C. Ambulance Service (ALS), Specialized: Services generally including the administration of intravenous (IV) therapy; use of anti-shock trousers, establishment of a patient's airway, defibrillation of the heart; cardiac monitoring and relief of tension pneumothorax conditions.
- D. Cardiac Monitoring: The monitoring of the electrical activity of the heart.

- E. Disposable Supplies (ALS): Routine disposable supplies, e.g., cervical collar, utilized in managing patient care.
- F. Emergency Medical Services (EMS): The services utilized in responding to the needs of those persons in need of immediate medical care within the jurisdiction and adjacent to the City of Bethlehem provided by the Bethlehem Emergency Medical Services, including but not limited to the rendering of advanced life support care.
- G. External Automated Defibrillation: The application of an external, automated defibrillator (AED) used to convert lethal abnormal electrical heart rhythms.
- H. Extra Attendant: An additional attendant required to adequately manage patient care on scene or during patient transport. Such additional attendant can be a policeman, fireman, first responder or other agent of the City. The extra attendant can be responsible for the operation of the ambulance to allow the two paramedics access to the patient.
- I. Mileage (ALS): The distance traveled by an ALS ambulance from the point where the patient is picked up, to the hospital or to a rendezvous point.
- J. Non-Resident: An individual domiciled outside of the City of Bethlehem.
- K. Oxygen Administration: The administration of oxygen for the treatment of conditions resulting from oxygen deficiency.
- L. Patient: A person receiving EMS from City EMS providers or a person who receives an EMS response.
- M. Resident: An individual domiciled within the City of Bethlehem. The definition of resident, for purposes of this Article, includes but is not limited to, full time residents of the City of Bethlehem, full time students residing within the City limits, long term guests of a resident of the City, and employees on duty with City business.
- N. Service Charge: An assessment to a patient who has received treatment at a scene, through actual, implied or informed consent, but who has refused transport to a hospital. Treatment can be limited to initial assessment and patient refusal of services.

- O. Third Party Payer: An insurance carrier or other coverage provided, having the responsibility to pay for medical services rendered to a patient as a result of that patient's accident, injury or illness.
- P. Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD): The dispatch standard to be utilized by Bethlehem EMS and the Communications Center as per criteria established by the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch.

1120.03 POLICY

- A. The City of Bethlehem (City) hereby mandates Advanced Life Support as the minimum standard of a two paramedic response to an EMS 911 call and will bill accordingly.
- B. The City recognizes the need to bill for these services to aid in the provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- C. No person requiring EMS shall be denied services due to a lack of insurance or ability to pay.
- D. Any applicable charges for EMS rendered, shall be billed directly to the patient or to the patient's third party payer.
- E. A patient who receives payment for City EMS bills from a third party payer is obligated to remit such monies to the City of Bethlehem (provided that the patient has not paid the bills directly to the City). The City shall hold any patient who does not do so, liable for any costs or fees related to the City's expenses of recovering the patient's EMS fees in addition to the total EMS billed amount.
- F. In the case of major or unique incidents, the EMS, at its discretion, can bill additionally for material, vehicle and personnel costs.

1120.04 PROCEDURE FOR BILLING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- A. A Detailed listing of patients who utilize EMS will be compiled by the City of Bethlehem Emergency Medical Services. This information will be transmitted to the bureau of agency responsible for billing. This information will include at least:

1. Name and address of patient
2. Name and address of insurance carrier, if applicable
3. Date, time and EMS number of service
4. Point of origin and destination
5. Possible diagnosis
6. Signature of the patient, when possible
7. Description of service provided and charges

B. Description of service provided and charges established:

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| 1. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Service:
Specialized | \$450.00 |
| 2. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Service:
Non-Specialized | 407.00 |
| 3. Mileage (ALS) (Per Loaded Mile) | 8.50 |
| 4. Response Fee | 45.00 |
| 5. Services ancillary to the above:
Electrocardiogram (cardiac monitoring) | 83.00 |
| Oxygen | 43.00 |
| 6. Extra Attendant | 55.00 |
| 7. Service Charge | 55.00 |
| Standby Fee (per hour) | 50.00 |

C. Indexing for Charges

The fees established in B. above shall be raised annually, or on January 1 of each year, in accordance with the percentage increase established by the participatory prevailing rate as established by the annual Pennsylvania Medicare profile report provided that the Department Director notify the City Clerk's Office, in writing of said changes.

(Ord. 3176. Passed 4/19/88; Ord. 3441. Passed 11/19/91; Ord. 3577. Passed 11/9/93; Ord. 3680. Passed 4/4/95; Ord. 3740. Passed 3/5/96; Ord. 3806. Passed 3/4/97; Ord. 3931. Passed 1/5/99.)